

2014 CEHRT Hardship Exception Guidance for Eligible Hospitals and Critical Access Hospitals

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If you are an eligible hospital or a critical access hospital (CAH), and you are unable to implement EHR Technology certified to the 2014 edition certification criteria in time to successfully demonstrate meaningful use for the 2014 reporting year, you may be eligible for a hardship exception from the applicable Medicare payment adjustments.

When do payment adjustments take effect for the 2014 reporting year?

The Medicare EHR Incentive Program payment adjustment is applied in 2016 for the 2014 reporting year for providers who demonstrated meaningful use in a previous year. New participants in the 2014 reporting year can also apply for an exception to the 2015 payment adjustment.

CMS is currently accepting hardship exception applications for the 2015 payment adjustment only.

New Participants in 2014

If you are new to the program and intended to demonstrate meaningful use for the first time in 2014, but you are not able to implement 2014 certified EHR technology for the 2014 reporting year, you may apply for a hardship exception for the 2015 payment adjustment.

- Use the eligible hospital hardship exception form for 2015
- Indicate the reason you are applying for a hardship
 - Select “2014 Vendor Issues”
- Submit your application by April 1, 2014

Returning Meaningful Users in 2014

If you successfully demonstrated meaningful use for the 2013 reporting year, you will not be subject to the 2015 payment adjustment. If you are not able to implement 2014 certified EHR technology for a 2014 reporting period, you may apply for a hardship exception for the 2016 payment adjustment.

- Use the eligible hospital hardship exception form for 2016 which will be available after April 1, 2014
- Indicate the reason you are applying for a hardship
 - Select “2014 Vendor Issues”
- Submit your application by April 1, 2015

Please note: Payment adjustments are only applicable to the Medicare EHR Incentive Program. If you are only eligible for the Medicaid program, you will not be subject to payment adjustments and you do not need to apply for a hardship exception. However, if you are eligible for both programs, you must demonstrate meaningful use in either Medicare or Medicaid in order to avoid the payment adjustment or you may apply for a hardship exception. Receiving a payment for adopt/implement/upgrade under the Medicaid incentive program will not exempt you from the Medicare payment adjustment.

